

Notes from first meeting of ABAG CALFED Task Force
Water Management Subcommittee

In attendance:

Jared Huffman, Board member, Marin Municipal Water District
Ellen Levin, SF PUC
Doug Wallace, EBMUD
Nicole Sandkulla, BAWUA
Amy Fowler, SCVWD (by phone)
Dave Briggs, CCWD (by phone)

Absent

Dena Mossar, City of Palo Alto
Ira Ruskin, City of Redwood City

Staff/Consultants

Jennifer Krebs, ABAG
Paul Fassinger, ABAG
Mary Selkirk, CCPDR/CALFED
Cindy Darling, CALFED

This was the first meeting of the ABAG CALFED Task Force subcommittee on Water Management.

Outcomes and Key Issues

1. Participants supported the broad objective proposed for this subcommittee:
“To identify and oversee tasks necessary to mutually educate general purpose government entities and water supply agencies on issues related to land use and water management that affect the Bay area.”
2. Participants focused primarily on Tasks 3-6 of the attached list of tasks as a good starting point for the Task Force and the subcommittee. They wanted input from the overall Task Force, especially from city and county representatives, on which of these tasks were the highest priority. It was recognized that several of the tasks would be costly and the group wanted to focus on the most important issues first. The group also recognized that resources would need to be identified for any task they recommended.

Over the next month Mary Selkirk will undertake another, more in-depth series of interviews of Task Force members to assess their specific interest in and issues with regard to the regional water management efforts proposed for the Task Force. A number of these tasks would require staffing and resources commitments from the Task Force’s member agencies.

Meeting Objective

The purpose of this meeting was to agree on the overall objective of the Water management Subcommittee and to review, discuss and potentially reach agreement on a set of specific tasks that the Task Force and its Water Management Subcommittee would undertake.

Participants were generally supportive of the objective of the subcommittee being mutual education between general purpose government entities and water supply agencies on issues related to land-use and water management that affect the Bay Area.

The subcommittee also discussed the attached list of tasks prepared in advance by Cindy Darling and Mary Selkirk and reviewed in advance by some members of the Task Force. Some raised objections to task that implied going beyond anything other than strictly “education.” Some raised concerns about the costs of staffing the proposed tasks.

Another participant proposed three focused areas of activity that the subcommittee could promote for better regional water management: promoting better coordination among water districts, capitalizing on partnership opportunities among water districts, and mutual education.

There was lengthy discussion on the proposed tasks. Participants agreed that Task 3-6 were a comprehensive place to focus, but expressed a need to hear from the entire Task Force as to their specific interests vis a vis promoting regional water management.

There was also lengthy discussion about the potential linkage between the activities of the Task Force in general, and this subcommittee in particular, and the ongoing Regional Livability Footprint Strategy. Participants raised many valid questions about how to integrate these efforts, most specifically how the tasks proposed for the subcommittee could provide value added to the Regional Livability Footprint Strategy effort.

ABAG staff Paul Fassinger pointed out the opportunity here for ABAG to provide some guidance, especially in light of the planning requirements now required with the passage of SB 211, which requires much more rigorous consideration of water supply in planning for new developments.

Doug Wallace of EBMUD noted that EBMUD would be providing workshops and briefings to interested groups on the implications of SB 221.

A number of participants agreed that the Task Force could play an important role in funding regional recycling and conservation programs. Specifically, they expressed support for the Task Force’s officially endorsing and supporting full funding for the bay Area Regional Recycling Program.

Next Meeting

Participants tentatively committed to meeting again on February 15, 2001.